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30 August 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Special Watch Committee Report on Taiwan Strait Situation:

The Chinese Communists probably do not intend to initiate major offensive military action against Taiwan and the Penghus (Pescadores) in the immediate future, although they now possess a capability for major air attacks.

The Chinese Communists have increased propaganda attacks and psychological warfare on the Nationalists and specifically began warning on 27 August that an invasion of the Chinmens (Quemoy) is imminent.

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The Communists have increased their capabilities to bring heavy pressure on the Chinmens, the Matsus and smaller offshore islands and could launch major attacks against them; with the possible exception of Big and Little Chinmen, such attack could be made without further military build-up and with little or no warning. The ground and logistic forces have been increased near Amoy but the assembly of amphibious lift necessary for the invasion of Big and Little Chinmen has not yet been observed.

The Communists are likely to continue heavy artillery barrages, increase interdiction of supply lines to the islands using artillery, naval, and air elements as necessary, maintain a high state of readiness for air operations, and seize one or more of the smaller offshore islands. It is possible that they will attempt the seizure of one or more of the larger offshore islands.

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Incidents between US forces and Chinese Communist forces are possible. [redacted]

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USSR: [redacted] observers have sighted a new large delta-wing aircraft on Moscow/Fili airfield. The aircraft was about two thirds the size of the BISON jet heavy bomber. [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Jordan: Prime Minister Rifai has agreed that present American aid offers are sufficient for him to withdraw his threat to resign. He has also agreed to consult the United States before asking British troops to withdraw. Popular opposition to the pro-Western regime continues. Withdrawal of British troops still seems almost certain to be followed by a change of government if not an attempt at revolution. [redacted]

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Cyprus: The relations of EOKA leader Grivas with Athens and Archbishop Makarios are deteriorating. This lessens the ability of the Greek Government and the Archbishop to restrain future EOKA activities.

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III. THE WEST

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France - Algerian terrorists: The Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) campaign of sabotage and terrorism in France is expected to continue through September. French authorities fear attacks in the eastern industrial city of Metz and in western France. The French Communist party probably plans to exploit such activities.

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LATE ITEM

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*Soviet nuclear test-ban tactics: In his agreement to commence negotiations on 31 October on suspension of nuclear weapons tests, Khrushchev hinted broadly that the Soviet Union will resume testing unless a test suspension agreement is achieved at the negotiations. The Soviet premier is thus seeking to bring pressure on the Western powers to drop any "conditions"--particularly that the agreement be renewed annually and that progress be achieved in disarmament--in favor of an outright test ban "for all time."

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Delta-Wing Airplane Seen on Moscow Airfield

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[redacted] observers on 27 August saw a large delta-wing aircraft on the airfield at Plant 23, Moscow/Fili. The aircraft was estimated to be two thirds the size of a BISON, of mid-wing configuration with a large raked tail, a delta horizontal stabilizer, possibly lower than mid-wing, and a slim, tapered nose extending forward of the wing about one quarter the length of the fuselage. There were pods or tanks of about 300-gallon size on each wing tip.

The fuselage appeared oval in cross-section and wider than it was high. The aircraft was seen mainly from the rear, and the fuselage was tilted nose-high, about 20 degrees from the horizontal. The engines were not seen, but the observers had the impression of one or more jet exhausts in the tail of the fuselage. The source indicated that the sighting was very brief and under unfavorable conditions.

This is the latest of several sightings reporting delta-wing bomber aircraft in the past year. It is particularly significant that the aircraft was seen at a known bomber production plant in an area adjacent to a design bureau. Other sightings of varying reliability have been reported in the Barents Sea area during the period 22 October-1 November 1957, and in the Moscow area in the latter part of June 1958.

Because of the circumstances under which this observation was made, information provided by source does not permit a conclusion as to size, number of engines, purpose of wing-tip pods, and many other details.

It is probable that this airplane was assembled at Fili, the site of BISON production. Further observation at Fili may permit early determination of the size, characteristics, and state of development of this new aircraft, of future production plans at Fili, and implications for Soviet long-range aviation.

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Cyprus

The voluntary cease-fire maintained by the Greek Cypriot underground organization EOKA since 4 August may be broken in the near future and new attacks launched against the British. EOKA has been hurt by recent British security drives on Cyprus, and EOKA leader Grivas may be tempted to renew violence before his forces are further reduced by capture or declining morale. He has indicated his dissatisfaction at the "indecisiveness" of the Greek Government and its failure to threaten withdrawal from the Western alliance system unless its allies show greater sympathy on the Cyprus problem. Relations between Grivas and Archbishop Makarios have also deteriorated. A complete rupture in their relations, while improbable at this time, would eliminate one of the few potential restraints on the EOKA leader.

Both Makarios and Greek Foreign Minister Averoff appear to favor continued peace on the island while they seek a favorable resolution regarding Cyprus at the next regular session of the UNGA. The British have repeatedly indicated that following a limited period of peace on Cyprus they would permit the return of Makarios from exile--a move much desired by most Greek Cypriots.

Meanwhile, the government of Greece continues its refusal to cooperate in implementing London's new plan for Cyprus. The Greek Cypriots, who constitute 80 percent of the population of the island, are also united in opposing the plan. Greek Foreign Minister Averoff hopes this noncooperation will force London to make further concessions to the Greek position. The British, however, realize that further concessions to Athens might cause the Turks to reconsider their decision to cooperate.

Cooperation between Greece and the US continues to be affected by Greek belief that Washington is supporting the Anglo-Turkish "side" in the Cyprus dispute.

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III. THE WEST

Algerians Expected to Continue Sabotage-Terror Campaign In France

The coordinated campaign of sabotage and terror which has been undertaken in France by the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) is expected to continue until the 28 September constitutional referendum. The Algerian Nationalists are attempting to undermine the holding of the referendum in Algeria and to discredit in advance any favorable outcome.

French authorities are reported to fear particularly an outbreak of attacks in the eastern industrial city of Metz, and in western France where limited security personnel and open country would favor the success of any attacks.

Following this week's series of attacks on petroleum installations, FLN tactics may turn to sabotaging rail and highway bridges and to bombing crowded public places such as theaters. Despite recent reinforcements, French police agencies would probably need considerable military assistance to protect all likely sabotage targets.

Although the French Communist party (PCF) still appears unwilling to risk the consequences of overt encouragement of violence, the PCF probably plans to exploit the terrorist-sabotage activities to foment distrust of the government's ability to maintain security.

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